



THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION of VICTORIA

(A Member of the Co-operative Federation of Australia)

CO-OPERATIVE INFORMATION

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA
G.P.O. Box 5211AA, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001, Australia
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NEW LOCATION FOR FEDERATION OFFICE

From 9th June 1980, the new location of the office of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria will be:

225 SWANSTON STREET,
MELBOURNE, 3000.

The postal address will be unchanged, continuing as:

G.P.O. BOX 5211AA,
MELBOURNE, 3001.

The new telephone number will be: (03) 663 1674

Come in and see us. We have the most informative library in Australia on matters Co-operative. We are well placed to assist Co-operative Directors and staff with:

- Director and Management Advisory Services
- Secretarial, Typing and Copying Services
- Staff Recruitment
- Liaison with the Registry
- Liaison with other Government Departments, State and Federal
- Liaison with Suppliers
- Planning Interstate and Overseas Co-operative Visits
- Providing Speakers for Co-operative Meetings

Country based Co-operatives and others are invited to use us as your city centre.

LEGISLATION

The Federation learnt with concern of the introduction of a Bill into Parliament which sought to amend the Stamps Act by, inter alia, excluding Co-operative Credit Societies from the exemption from payment of Stamp Duty on Bills of Exchange, including cheques and promissory notes. Immediate and forceful action was taken by the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association, the Association of Co-operative Housing Societies, the Permanent Building Societies Association and this Federation. The offending clause was subsequently deleted from the Bill.

The amendments to the Co-operation Act anticipated to be brought before Parliament in its Autumn 1980 session will now be presented in the Spring 1980 session.

CO-OP. PETROL?

Where in Victoria can you obtain your petrol from bowlers coloured light and dark blue and labelled CO-OP with no other multi-national or Australian petrol marketing name to disfigure the image?

If you don't know then read on. The answer is in the final paragraph of this newsletter.

CO-OPERATIVE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY EXPANDS

Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society has doubled the size of its operations by the recently announced merger of World Permanent Building Society. Members' funds in the enlarged Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society now amount to \$25.5 million with assets totalling \$47 million. Of the Permanent Building Societies operating in Victoria only four are Co-operative building societies. Of these, Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society is by far the largest.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Federation will be holding Regional meetings for Co-operatives in the Northern Mallee District at Mildura on 15th July, 1980 and for Co-operatives in the Goulburn North Eastern Districts on 24th June, 1980.

These meetings provide the opportunity for you to meet fellow Co-operative leaders in your District, exchange experiences, learn something more of Directors' roles and responsibilities and to put your views on structure and services of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

DIRECTORS' EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Following receipt of requests from member Co-operatives and accepting the need for assisting members of Co-operative Boards of Directors reach their potentials through better understanding of the concepts of business control the Co-operative Federation of Victoria has organised two seminars as the first segment of its education programme. Both will be overnight residential seminars held at the Sheraton Hotel, Spring Street, Melbourne. Both seminars will be under the direction of Dr. Ian Wardrop, David Syme Business School, Caulfield Institute of Technology.

Seminar 1 will be concerned with control and planning.

Control means planning, measuring and comparing. This programme is aimed to provide a better understanding of guidelines to develop control knowledge and to help Directors in their function of directing their Co-operative and evaluating its performance.

Seminar 1 will be held from: 10.30 a.m., 23rd July, 1980 to
12 noon, 24th July, 1980 at the
Sheraton Hotel, Spring Street, Melbourne

The subjects to be considered in this seminar will be:
Financial Operating Indicators
Forward Planning – the Board's perspective

Seminar 2 will be held from: 10.30 a.m., 27th August, 1980 to
12 noon, 28th August, 1980 at the
Sheraton Hotel, Spring Street, Melbourne.

It will be concerned with the role of a Co-operative Board of Directors.

Members of the Co-operative alone have the authority for election and changes in composition of the Board. Directors must, therefore, exercise their influence with members to ensure the election of a well balanced and competent Board.

This seminar will be concerned with:

Composition of the Board – Directors Selection and Evaluation
Terms of Service
Role of the Chairman
Board/Management Relations
Member Relations

Write or telephone for detailed brochure on both seminars. Numbers will be strictly limited so early application is recommended. Attendance costs at the seminars are deductible from your Co-operative's taxable income

CO-OPERATIVES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

We previously reported the favourable response of the Premier (as Minister Administering the Victorian Development Corporation) to this office's request that Co-operatives be eligible to participate in the provisions of the Small Businesses Development Corporation.

The Federation, through its affiliation with the Co-operative Federation of Australia, has association with the Council of Small Business Organisations established in Canberra. This Council has for some time been seeking recognition by the Federal Government by having representation on the national Small Business Advisory Council, nomination to which is by Government invitation. The Minister for Industry & Commerce, the Rt. Hon. Phillip Lynch, has now formally invited the Small Business Organisations Council to nominate a representative to his Small Business Advisory Council.

Submissions affecting small businesses, which Co-operatives consider could be improved by better Government policies would be welcomed for consideration by this Federation and relevant onward action.

58th INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAY

Saturday, 5th July 1980 has been set by the International Co-operative Alliance as International Co-operative Day. The Director, Dr. S. K. Saxena, from his London headquarters asks us "... to remember that our Co-operative Principles are not just a way to solve credit and marketing problems; they are also a way of life in which peace is the basic requirement for the economic and social development of mankind and the fundamental condition for Co-operative progress..."

In our last information sheet we set out the relationship of Victorian Co-operatives to the World Co-operative scene.

SOME MEMBER CO-OPERATIVES OF THE FEDERATION

Ibis Milk Products, Shepparton

Was formed as the result of mergers of pioneer Co-operative dairy factories in Echuca, Numurkah, Shepparton, Stanhope, Swanpool.

The oldest of these was Swanpool Dairy Co-operative established in 1892. Another one was the Shepparton Co-operative Butter Factory which in 1897 produced 122 tons of butter. Today that plant, as one of the plants of Ibis Milk Products, manufactures about 10,000 tons of dairy products per year.

Today, Ibis Milk Products, a co-operatively structured and operating dairy company manufactures a wide range of dairy products – bulk products for export or re-use by other food processors and consumer products. These products include Cheddar cheese, Creamery butter, skimmed milk, flavoured skimmed milk and full cream milk powder, skimmed milk cheese, dried Buttermilk powder, calf milk replaces, acid casine, table cream.

Robinvale Producers Co-operative

At the end of World War II the Robinvale area was opened up by the State Government for Soldier settlement. The first settlers arrived there in August 1947 and they soon recognised the need for a modern dried fruits packing organisation in the area. In August 1948 a certificate of Incorporation of the Robinvale Producers Co-operative was issued. Today it packs 10% of Australian Dried Fruits and operates a successful merchandise service for supply of farm inputs of its members.

Morwell Co-operative

Has as its slogan "Consumer conscious, community concerned". Formed in 1955 as the merchandising arm of the Community Credit Union, it is now a major retail store in the thriving La Trobe Valley town of Morwell.

It operates a high class food supermarket dealing in groceries, fruit and vegetables and meat. It has a Liquor Department with a drive-in sales service. It has high standard departments dealing in furniture, bedding, carpets and vinyls.

It provides further member services through its agencies for the Co-operative Insurance Company and the Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society through which it is able to provide funds for housing for its members.

In addition, it operates a very successful petrol station not identified with any oil company but selling under the CO-OP banner.